

CLAIM LISTING

Claims 1 through 13 canceled.

14. (Currently amended) A cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide formed of cobalt and ~~one or more~~ other metals, wherein the cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide has a density of about 0.5 to about 2.2 g/cm<sup>3</sup>, a particle size ~~above~~ about 1  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 20  $\mu\text{m}$ , and a specific surface of about 0.5-20 m<sup>2</sup>/g, wherein the cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide is prepared by a reaction comprising the step of adding a complexing agent and hydroxide ion under alkaline conditions to an aqueous chloride solution of said cobalt or to an aqueous chloride solution of alloy of said cobalt and said ~~one or more~~ other metals to form a metal hydroxide, wherein the complexing agent is selected so as to form an ammonium complex with a metal ion, wherein a molar ratio of complexing agent to metal ion being about 0.5 to about 3 and wherein the reaction is conducted at a pH in the range of 10 to 13.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously presented) The cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide of claim 14, wherein the pH is in the range of 11.2 to 12.0.

17. (Currently amended) The cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide of claim 14, wherein the ~~one or more~~ other metals is selected from the group consisting of: nickel, manganese, magnesium, aluminum, and alloys thereof.

18. (Previously presented) The cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide of claim 14, wherein the chloride solution has a concentration in the range of 10 to 120 g/l, calculated on the total metal content.

19. (Previously presented) The cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide of claim 14, wherein the complexing agent is ammonium sulphate or aqueous ammonia.

20. (Previously presented) The cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide of claim 14, wherein the molar ratio of complexing agent to metal is about 1.5 to 2.

21. (Previously presented) The cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide of claim 14, wherein the pH is adjusted with NaOH.

22. (Previously presented) The cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide of claim 14, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of about 40 to 90°C.

23. (Previously presented) The cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide of claim 22, wherein the reaction is carried out at a temperature of about 70°C.

24. (New) The cobaltous hydroxide or alloy hydroxide of claim 14, wherein the particle size is about 0.9  $\mu\text{m}$  to about 7.4  $\mu\text{m}$ .